

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7264

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1773

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PA

SUBJ: SECRETARY7S TRAVEL TO OASGA

REF: STATE 093414

1. AS YOU KNOW, I INFORMED BARTCH ON FEBRUARY 20 THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER HAD CALLED ME IN AND ASKED THAT THE SECRETARY STOP IN ASUNCION IN CONNECTION WITH HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO ARGENTINA AFTER THE OASGA MEETING. THE PRESIDENT CITED PARAGUAY'S VOTING RECORD AND SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. AT THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA AS A REASON FOR THIS SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP. THIS REQUEST WAS FOLLOWED UP SEVERAL TIMES BY FONMIN NOGUES. I TOLD STROESSNER AND NOGUES THAT I HAD NO NEWS ON THE TRIP BUT I WAS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT THE SECRETARY COULD SCHEDULE AN ASUNCION STOP BECAUSE OF HIS TIGHT SCHEDULE.

2. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE PRESIDENT AND NOGUES HAVE RENEWED THEIR REQUEST BECAUSE OF WIRE SERVICES REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY WAS PLANNING A SECOND LATIN AMERICAN TRIP. I HAVE HELD TO MY PREVIOUS LINE. I SHALL WEATHER THE STORM BUT I HAVE ONE PROBLEM.

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3. ACCORDING TO REFTEL THE SECRETARY (IF HE DOES MAKE

THE TRIP) WILL SPEND 24 HOURS IN URUGUAY. THIS WILL CAUSE TROUBLE HERE. IN ADDITION TO PARAGUAY'S LOOKING UPON URUGUAY AS A SOUTHERN CONE TWIN (REGARDLESS OF HOW THE URUGUAYANAS VIEW PARAGUAY), PARAGUAY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND BE OFFENDED BY A VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO WITHOUT A PARALLEL VISIT HERE.

4. I AM NOT ADVOCATING A VISIT TO PARAGUAY. QUITE THE CONTRARY, BUT I DO BELIEVE I SHOULD BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE VISIT TO URUGUAY WILL DO SOME DAMAGE, MAINLY IN LESSENING SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND IN EVEN LESS COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. A URUGUAYAN VISIT WOULD ALSO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT OUR ABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE GOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, SINCE IN THEIR VIEW URUGUAY'S REPUTATION IS WORSE THAN THEIRS.

5. WHETHER THE BENEFITS TO THE U.S. OF A URUGUAYAN VISIT WOULD OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES TO U.S.-PARAGUAYAN RELATIONS ONLY THE DEPARTMENT CAN GAUGE. THE PROBLEM COULD BE AVOIDED IF HE VISITED NEITHER.  
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